

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A washing machine comprising:

a casing on a rear portion of which an opening is formed, said opening being covered with a rear cover provided with an outward protrusion;

a washing tub having outer and inner tubs, said outer tub being positioned in the casing and being tilted forward at a predetermined angle for containing washing water, said inner tub being positioned in said outer tub for washing and spin-drying laundry, and wherein a rear lower portion of said tilted outer tub projects rearwardly through said opening to an internal space of the protrusion of said rear cover; and

means for driving and rotating the ~~outer~~ inner tub.

Claim 2. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein said casing has a front portion relatively flat and perpendicular with respect to a bottom of said washing machine.

Claim 3. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein said casing further includes a body integrally comprised of a front portion and a pair of side portions and formed having a channel section shape, an upper plate attached to an upper sub portion of an open

portion of the casing, and a lower plate attached to a lower sub-portion of the open portion of the casing under the upper plate, thereby forming said opening between said upper and lower plates.

Claim 4. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein said protrusion of the rear cover is shaped in the form of a trapezoidal cross section.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A washing machine comprising:

a casing having a rear portion on which an opening is formed, said opening being covered with a rear cover provided with an outward protrusion;

a washing tub having outer and inner tubs, said outer tub being positioned in the casing and being tilted forward at a predetermined angle for containing washing water, said inner tub being positioned in said outer tub for washing and spin-drying laundry;

means for driving and rotating the ~~outer~~ inner tub; and

a shock-absorbing element, said shock-absorbing element being attached to an inner surface of the protrusion of said rear cover so as to absorb impact energy when a projected portion of said tilted outer tub is brought into contact with said rear cover.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A washing machine comprising:

a casing having a rear portion, including an upper plate and a lower plate, on which an opening is formed, said opening being covered with a rear cover provided with an outward protrusion;

a washing tub having outer and inner tubs, said outer tub being positioned in the casing and being tilted forward at a predetermined angle for containing washing water, said inner tub being positioned in said outer tub for washing and spin-drying laundry;

means for driving and rotating the ~~outer~~ inner tub;

at least one first holding projection regularly formed on a lower end of said upper plate over said opening so as to hold an upper portion of said rear cover; and

at least one second holding projection regularly formed on an upper portion of said lower plate under said opening so as to hold an lower portion of said rear cover.

Claim 7. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 6, further comprising one or more clips, said clips being formed on an upper end of said rear cover so as to engage with said at least one first holding projection.

Claim 8. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 7, further comprising one or more notches, said notches being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to allow said first holding projections to pass through said rear cover when said rear cover is assembled with the casing.

Claim 9. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 6, further comprising one or more notches, said notches being formed on an upper end of said rear cover so as to allow said at least one first holding projection to pass through said rear cover when said rear cover is assembled with the casing.

Claim 10. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 6, wherein said casing is formed to allow a rear lower portion of said tilted outer tub to be projected through said opening to an internal space of the protrusion of said rear cover.

Claim 11. (Original) A washing machine casing comprising:

a body having a front portion, a pair of side portions, a base plate along a bottom of the casing and a tub portion;

a plurality of load supports being formed on upper ends of a plurality of upper corners of the casing;

an upper portion having a folding door;

a relatively flat and perpendicular rear portion, wherein said rear portion includes an upper plate, an open portion having an open portion facilitating a connection to a power source, and a lower plate, said upper plate being engaged with an upper sub-portion of the open portion and said lower plate being engaged with a lower sub-portion of the open portion, said rear portion being in parallel with said front portion; and

a rear cover covering said opening of the open portion and having a shock absorbing element, said shock-absorbing element being attached to an inner surface of said rear cover so as to absorb impact energy from said tub portion.

Claim 12. (Original) The washing machine casing according to claim 11, wherein said tub portion is for a tilted washing tub, said rear cover including a protrusion having a slope

corresponding to a tilt angle of said tilted washing tub and extending in a direction away from said front portion of said casing.

Claim 13. (Original) The washing machine casing according to claim 12, further comprising:

at least one first holding projection regularly formed on a lower end of said upper plate over said opening so as to hold an upper portion of said rear cover; and

at least one second holding projection regularly formed on an upper portion of said lower plate under said opening so as to hold a lower portion of said rear cover.

Claim 14. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 13, further comprising one or more clips, said clips being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to engage with said first holding projections.

Claim 15. (Original) The washing machine casing according to claim 11, further comprising:

at least one first holding projection regularly formed on a lower end of said upper plate over said opening so as to hold an upper portion of said rear cover; and

at least one second holding projection regularly formed on an upper portion of said lower plate under said opening so as to hold a lower portion of said rear cover.

Claim 16. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 15, further comprising one or more clips, said clips being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to engage with said first holding projections.

Claim 17. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 15, further comprising at least one notch, said at least one notch being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to allow said first holding projections to pass through said rear cover when said rear cover is assembled with the casing.

Claim 18. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 15, further comprising at least one notch, said at least one notch being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to allow said first holding projections to pass through said rear cover when said rear cover is assembled with the casing.

Claim 19. (Original) A washing machine casing comprising:

a body having a front portion, a pair of side portions, a base plate along a bottom of the casing and a tub portion;

a plurality of load supports being formed on upper ends of a plurality of upper corners of the casing;

an upper portion having a folding door;

a relatively flat and perpendicular rear portion, wherein said rear portion includes an upper plate, an open portion having an open portion facilitating a connection to a power source, and a lower plate, said upper plate being engaged with an upper sub-portion of the open portion and said lower plate being engaged with a lower sub-portion of the open portion, said rear portion being in parallel with said front portion;

a rear cover covering said opening of the open portion;  
at least one first holding projection regularly formed on a lower end of said upper plate over said opening so as to hold an upper portion of said rear cover; and  
at least one second holding projection regularly formed on an upper portion of said lower plate under said opening so as to hold a lower portion of said rear cover.

Claim 20. (Original) The washing machine casing according to claim 19, wherein said tub portion is for a tilted washing tub, said rear cover including a protrusion having a slope corresponding to a tilt angle of said tilted washing tub and extending in a direction away from said front portion of said casing.

Claims 21 - 41 (Canceled)